WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for treating an autoimmune disease in a mammal, the method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount for treating said disease of a bystander antigen, said antigen eliciting the release of transforming growth factor beta (TGF-β) at a locus within the body of said mammal wherein T cells contributing to autoimmune response are found to suppress the T-cells contributing to said response.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said bystander antigen is specific to an organ or tissue afflicted by immune attack during said disease.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said bystander antigen is not an autoantigen.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said bystander antigen is an autoantigen.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein said bystander antigen comprises a portion of an autoantigen but excludes at least one epitope of said autoantigen that is recognized by immune system cells contributing to said disease.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said bystander is administered to said mammal via oral route.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said bystander is administered to said mammal via inhalation.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein:

said bystander antigen is administered by oral route or by inhalation;

said oral or inhalable bystander antigen elicits suppressor T-cells that cause the release of TGF-β;

said bystander antigen is not specific to an organ or tissue afflicted by immune attack during said disease;

said method further comprising also administering to said mammal the same bystander antigen via parenteral route, thereby causing said suppressor T-cells to be targeted to the same loci within the body of said mammal wherein the cells contributing to autoimmune attack are found.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said disease is selected from the group of multiple sclerosis and animal models therefor, and said bystander antigen is selected from the group of myelin basic protein, proteolipid protein, fragments thereof comprising at least one suppressive epitope, and combinations of any two of the foregoing.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said bystander antigen comprises MBP peptide 21-40.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis and animal models therefor and said bystander antigen is selected from the group consisting of Type I collagen, Type II collagen, fragments thereof comprising a suppressive epitope and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of Type I diabetes and animal models therefor and said bystander antigen is selected from the group consisting of glucagon, insulin, fragments thereof comprising at least one suppressive epitope, and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of uveoretinitis and animal models therefor and said bystander antigen is selected from the

group consisting of S-antigen, interphotoreceptor retinoid binding protein (IRBP), fragments thereof comprising at least one suppressive epitope, and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

14. The method of claim 1 further comprising administering to said mammal an amount of a synergist effective in combination with said bystander antigen to treat said disease.

15. A pharmaceutical oral dosage form for treating an autoimmune disease in a mammal, the form comprising:

an effective amount for treating said disease of a bystander antigen, said antigen upon administration eliciting the release of transforming growth factor beta (TGF-β) at a locus within the body of said mammal wherein T cells contributing to autoimmune response are found to suppress the T-cells contributing to said response; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

16. The oral dosage form of claim 15 wherein said bystander antigen is specific to an organ or tissue afflicted by immune attack during said disease.

17. The oral dosage form of claim 16 wherein said bystander antigen is not an autoantigen.

18. The oral dosage form of claim 16 wherein said bystander antigen is an autoantigen.

19. The oral dosage form of claim 16 wherein said bystander antigen comprises a portion of an autoantigen comprising an immunosuppressive epitope but excludes at least

one epitope of said autoantigen that is recognized by immune system cells contributing to said disease.

20. The oral dosage form of claim 15 wherein said disease is selected from the group of multiple sclerosis and animal models therefor, and said bystander antigen is selected from the group of myelin basic protein, proteolipid protein, fragments thereof comprising at least one suppressive epitope, and combinations of any two of the foregoing.

21. The oral dosage form of claim 20 wherein said bystander antigen comprises MBP peptide 21-40.

22. The oral dosage form of claim 15 wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis and animal models therefor and said bystander antigen is selected from the group consisting of Type I collagen, Type II collagen, fragments thereof comprising a suppressive epitope and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

23. The oral dosage form of claim 15 wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of Type I diabetes and animal models therefor and said bystander antigen is selected from the group consisting of glucagon, insulin, fragments thereof comprising at least one suppressive epitope, and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

24. The oral dosage form of claim 15 wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of uveoretinitis and animal models therefor and said bystander antigen is selected from the group consisting of S-antigen, interphotoreceptor retinoid binding protein (IRBP), fragments thereof comprising at least one suppressive epitope, and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

25. The oral dosage form of claim 15 further comprising administering to said mammal an amount of a synergist effective in combination with said bystander antigen to treat said disease.

26. A pharmaceutical inhalable dosage form for treating an autoimmune disease in a mammal, the form comprising:

an effective amount for treating said disease of a bystander antigen, said antigen upon administration eliciting the release of transforming growth factor beta (TGF-β) at a locus within the body of said mammal wherein T cells contributing to autoimmune response are found to suppress the T-cells contributing to said response; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

27. The inhalable dosage form of claim 26 wherein said bystander antigen is specific to an organ or tissue afflicted by immune attack during said disease.

28. The inhalable dosage form of claim 26 wherein said bystander antigen is not an autoantigen.

29. The inhalable dosage form of claim 26 wherein said bystander antigen is an autoantigen.

30. The inhalable dosage form of claim 26 wherein said bystander antigen comprises a portion of an autoantigen comprising an immunosuppressive epitope but excludes at least one epitope of said autoantigen that is recognized by immune system cells contributing to said disease.

31. The inhalable dosage form of claim 26 wherein said disease is selected from the group of multiple sclerosis

and animal models therefor, and said bystander antigen is selected from the group of myelin basic protein, proteolipid protein, fragments thereof comprising at least one suppressive epitope, and combinations of any two of the foregoing.

32. The inhalable dosage form of claim 31 wherein said bystander antigen comprises MBP peptide 21-40.

33. The inhalable dosage form of claim 26 wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis and animal models therefor and said bystander antigen is selected from the group consisting of Type I collagen, Type II collagen, fragments thereof comprising a suppressive epitope and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

34. The inhalable dosage form of claim 26 wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of Type I diabetes and animal models therefor and said bystander antigen is selected from the group consisting of glucagon, insulin, fragments thereof comprising at least one suppressive epitope, and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

35. The inhalable dosage form of claim 26 wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of uveoretinitis and animal models therefor and said bystander antigen is selected from the group consisting of S-antigen, interphotoreceptor retinoid binding protein (IRBP), fragments thereof comprising at least one suppressive epitope, and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

36. The inhalable dosage form of claim 26 further comprising administering to said mammal an amount of a synergist effective in combination with said bystander antigen to treat said disease.

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